

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BULLETIN

AUGUST 22, 1942

VOL. VII, No. 165—PUBLICATION 1789

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The War

CRIMES AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

[Released to the press by the White House August 21]

The Secretary of State recently forwarded to me a communication signed by the Ambassador of the Netherlands and the Ministers of Yugoslavia and Luxembourg on behalf of the Governments of Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the French National Committee in London, calling attention to the barbaric crimes against civilian populations which are being committed in occupied countries, particularly on the continent of Europe.

In this communication, attention was invited to the declaration signed in London on January 13, 1942 by the representatives of nine governments whose countries are under German occupation. This declaration affirmed that acts of violence thus perpetrated against the civilian populations are at variance with accepted ideas concerning acts of war and political offenses as these are understood by civilized nations; stated that the punishment, through the channel of organized justice of those guilty and responsible for these crimes, is one of the principal war aims of the contracting governments; and recorded the determination of the contracting governments in a spirit of international solidarity to see to it that those guilty and responsible, whatever their nationality, are handed over to justice and tried and that the sentences pronounced are carried out.

The communication which I have just received from the chiefs of mission of the Netherlands, Yugoslavia, and Luxembourg states that these acts of oppression and terror have taken proportions and forms giving rise to the fear

that as the defeat of the enemy countries approaches, the barbaric and unrelenting character of the occupational regime will become more marked and may even lead to the extermination of certain populations.

As I stated on October 25, 1941:

"The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks the Nazis characteristically slaughter fifty or a hundred innocent persons. Those who would 'collaborate' with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning.

"The Nazis might have learned from the last war the impossibility of breaking men's spirit by terrorism. Instead they develop their 'lebensraum' and 'new order' by depths of frightfulness which even they have never approached before. These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness can never bring peace to Europe. It only sows the seeds of hatred which will one day bring fearful retribution."

The Government of the United States has been aware for some time of these crimes. Our Government is constantly receiving additional information from dependable sources, and it welcomes reports from any trustworthy source which would assist in keeping our growing

fund of information and evidence up to date and reliable.

The United Nations are going to win this war. When victory has been achieved, it is the purpose of the Government of the United States, as I know it is the purpose of each of the United Nations, to make appropriate use of the in-

formation and evidence in respect to these barbaric crimes of the invaders, in Europe and in Asia. It seems only fair that they should have this warning that the time will come when they shall have to stand in courts of law in the very countries which they are now oppressing and answer for their acts.

SINKING OF FIVE BRAZILIAN VESSELS

[Released to the press August 22]

An exchange of telegrams between the President of the United States of America and His Excellency Getulio Vargas, President of the United States of Brazil, follows:

"THE WHITE HOUSE, August 20, 1942.

"I have been outraged by the criminal sinking of the five Brazilian vessels. This contemptible action is barbaric in its utter disregard for all decency and civilized conduct and utterly futile in its desperate attempt to coerce and intimidate the free people of Brazil. In this moment of grave menace to the respect, the integrity, and the destiny of Brazil, I reiterate once again the abiding friendship of the people of the United States for the people of Brazil, their profound gratitude for the cooperation in the defense of the hemisphere which already has resulted in many sacrifices to Brazil, and their determination to defeat those who futilely seek to dominate Brazil and all other countries that value their freedom and independence.

"I want you to know that my thoughts and sympathy are with you in this critical hour.

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT"

[Translation]

"RIO DE JANEIRO, August 22, 1942.

"In the name of the people and of the Government of Brazil I wish to thank you and the noble American people for your hearty and comforting message sent to me in connection with the brutal assault of pirate Axis submarines against Brazilian vessels aimed at intimidating us and interrupting our maritime communications. Such acts of vandalism can only strengthen the principle of continental solidarity and determined cooperation between our two nations. We shall answer without fear disregarding any danger involved knowing that we can count on the sympathy and adherence of the American nations which are ready to defend their sovereignty.

GETULIO VARGAS"

DECLARATION OF WAR BY BRAZIL ON GERMANY AND ITALY

[Released to the press by the White House August 22]

The following cablegram was dispatched by President Roosevelt to His Excellency Getulio Vargas, President of the United States of Brazil:

"I have been informed that the United States of Brazil has today recognized that a state of war exists between Brazil, on one hand, and Germany and Italy on the other hand.

"On behalf of the Government and people of the United States I express to Your Excellency the profound emotion with which this courageous action has been received in this country. This solemn decision more firmly aligns the people of Brazil with the free peoples of the world in a relentless struggle against the lawless and predatory Axis powers. It adds power and strength, moral and material, to the armies

of liberty. As brothers in arms, our soldiers and sailors will write a new page in the history of friendship, confidence, and cooperation which has marked since the earliest days of independence relations between your country and mine.

"The action taken today by your Government has hastened the coming of the inevitable victory of freedom over oppression, of Christian religion over the forces of evil and darkness.

"I send you my warmest personal regards and expressions of the fullest confidence in the success of our common cause."

[Released to the press August 22]

The following telegram has been sent by the Secretary of State to His Excellency Oswaldo Aranha, Foreign Minister of Brazil:

"AUGUST 22, 1942.

"I have received a note from the Brazilian Ambassador in Washington informing me that the Government of Brazil recognizes that a state of war exists between Brazil on the one hand and Germany and Italy on the other hand.

"The people of the United States welcome the people of Brazil as brothers in arms and salute their high resolve and defiant courage in taking

a position unequivocally at the side of the embattled freedom-loving nations of the world. Today a heavy blow has been dealt the Axis Powers, moral no less than military, when a great, peaceful and law-abiding nation is driven by unprovoked acts of ruthless barbarity to take up arms in self-defense. It comes as no surprise to my countrymen that the proud Brazilian Nation has chosen the risks and hardships of battle when confronted with wanton attacks on its sovereign dignity and rights.

"The action of the Axis Powers in attacking your great country and people is a further demonstration of the fact that those Powers will strike at any peace-loving nation as and when to do so will serve their purpose of world conquest, regardless of considerations of humanity and international law. It also brings into bold relief the basic principle upon which the solidarity of the American republics rests, namely, that an attack against any one of them is an attack against all of them. Each of the twenty-one American Republics are today equally in danger.

"Together our two countries will face the future with serene confidence and high hearts.

"I take pleasure [etc.] CORDELL HULL"

TRANSFER OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM CANADIAN TO UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

[Released to the press August 20]

Through an exchange of notes at Ottawa on March 18 and 20, 1942 the Canadian Government agreed to the transfer to the armed forces of the United States of certain United States citizens and former United States citizens who were serving in the Canadian armed forces. To facilitate the return of these men the Canadian-American Military Board, composed of members of the various branches of the armed services, was set up. Between May 5 and June 3 the Board visited many of the principal military camps across Canada and effected the transfer of over 2,000 Americans.

The texts of notes recently exchanged between the two Governments with respect to these transfers are quoted below.

"JULY 10, 1942.

"MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

"You may have been informed that, under the terms of a recent agreement concluded between our two Governments, approximately 2,058 United States citizens have transferred from the Armed Forces of Canada to the Armed Forces of the United States. As these transfers are now virtually complete, I have been instructed to communicate to the United States Government the gratitude of the Government and people of Canada which is felt to those United States citizens who have now left our Forces for those of the United States.

"In this connection, the Prime Minister of Canada recently made the following statement in the House of Commons:

"We shall be sorry to lose those United States citizens who transfer to their own Forces. We do not, however, wish to stand in their way if they feel that they would sooner serve under the flag of their own country. Whether they are serving under our flag or under the United States flag, they are serving in the Armed Forces of the United Nations and are contributing to the common victory.

"The Americans in our Forces came to us when their country was still at peace. They came because they knew that Hitler was as much the enemy of the United States as he was the enemy of Canada. We were grateful to them for enlisting in our Forces—grateful because of the assistance which they freely gave us and grateful because they were living proofs—if proofs were needed—of the sympathy and support of their country for our cause. We shall always remain grateful to them. These sixteen thousand men were forerunners of the hundreds of thousands, the millions of their fellow citizens who are today enlisted in the struggle against the Axis."

"Most of the United States citizens who have been transferred to the Armed Forces of the United States have come from the Royal Canadian Air Force. On behalf of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Minister of National Defence for Air has written to the Prime Minister of Canada as follows:

"The Joint Canadian-American Military Board recently formed to repatriate American citizens in the Canadian Armed Forces has completed its proceedings and to me, the time seems appropriate to despatch a letter of appreciation to the United States authorities for the services rendered in Canada, and to the R.C.A.F. in particular, by those American citizens who early in the war came to our assistance and, of their own volition, volunteered for service in the initial organization and operation of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, conducted under the direction of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"These young men from the United States came to Canada and applied themselves whole-

heartedly to the early stages of our planning and training programmes and without a doubt their valued assistance has been greatly responsible for the successes which have far surpassed our original expectations.

"We know that, on repatriation to the United States Armed Forces, the officers and men who have been so valuable to the Royal Canadian Air Force will continue to apply themselves to the war effort of the United States of America in the same capable manner and thereby further the common cause of our two countries towards final victory. It is with sincere regret, but pride in the part that they played, that we part with the Americans who fitted into our organization and formed such a formidable team with our own Canadian air-men.

"The Royal Canadian Air Force would like to have conveyed to these young men their gratitude for past services, and sincere wishes for their future successful careers with the Armed Forces of the United States of America. It is also desired to express appreciation for the splendid and cooperative manner in which the American personnel of the Joint Canadian-American Military Board performed their duties while in Canada and for the excellent impression left, of their eagerness to complete the task assigned to them. Such spirit is and will be an inspiration to those serving under them and go far in furthering our joint cause."

"Believe me, my dear Mr. Hull,

Yours very sincerely,

LEIGHTON McCARTHY"

"AUGUST 8, 1942.

"MY DEAR MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES:

"Reference is made to the Minister's note of July 10, 1942, commenting on the recent transfer of over two thousand United States citizens from the armed forces of Canada to the armed forces of the United States and expressing the appreciation of the Government and people of Canada for the services which these men rendered while serving with the Canadian forces.

"A copy of Mr. McCarthy's note was sent to the Secretary of War who has requested me to communicate the following message to the Canadian Government:

"The War Department wishes to express to the Canadian Government its acknowledgment and appreciation of the training which the Canadian Armed Forces, including the Royal Canadian Air Force, have given to those United States citizens who have now been transferred to the Armed Forces of their own country. These citizens return to us benefited by advantages of training and experience provided to them by the Dominion of Canada. That training and experience will not be lost to Canada, however, for although the uniform worn by these men will henceforth be different, the cause for which they fight—the cause of Freedom, shared by all the United Nations—remains the same. To the Canadian Government, which gave its full cooperation to the Canadian-American Military Board in its work of arranging the transfers, the War Department extends its gratitude."

"I have also informed the Secretary of the Navy of Mr. McCarthy's note and am now in receipt of a letter from the Acting Secretary who has asked me to express the sincere appreciation of the Navy Department for the fine cooperation shown the Canadian-American Military Board during its trip through Canada and to state that without this cooperation it would have been impossible to have effected, in such a short time and with such facility, the transfer of American citizens from the armed forces of Canada to the United States armed forces.

"In communicating the above to your Government, I should appreciate your adding my personal view that these young men who have now returned to serve in the American forces will constitute a group of ambassadors of good will to spread throughout the United States the story of Canada's great contribution to the common war effort.

"Sincerely yours,

CORDELL HULL"

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

The exchange of goods with French North Africa, under the terms of an economic accord, has been resumed.¹ Two French ships sailed on August 9 from the United States for Casablanca, carrying supplies of a non-military nature for the use of the local population. These are supplies of which French North Africa is in great need and which under present conditions can only be furnished by the United States. American consular agents stationed in Morocco, Algiers, and Tunisia will supervise their distribution.

On August 11 two other ships sailed from Casablanca, carrying a mixed cargo of cork, tartar, olive oil, and other North African products for the United States.

RUBBER AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH HONDURAS

[Released to the press August 18]

The signing of a rubber agreement with British Honduras was announced on August 18 by the Department of State, the Rubber Reserve Company, and the Board of Economic Warfare.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Rubber Reserve Company will purchase, until December 31, 1946, all rubber produced in British Honduras which is not required for essential domestic needs there.

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL AND OTHER NATIONALS

The S.S. *Gripsholm* with 1,451 American and other nationals on board is expected to arrive at New York on August 25.

¹ *Bulletin* of April 11, 1942, p. 318, and April 18, 1942, p. 337.

In order to expedite the disembarkation of the passengers, the governmental agencies concerned in the examination of those arriving have decided that no persons will be allowed on the pier until examination is completed.

A list of passengers on the *Gripsholm* has been issued as Department of State press release 416, of August 18, 1942.

General

BIRTHDAY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Released to the press August 19]

The text of a message from the President to His Excellency Manuel Luis Quezon on the occasion of his sixty-fourth birthday follows:

"On the occasion of your birthday, I send you greetings of warm friendship. In the past year the Philippine people under your leadership have shown what heights human beings can reach when the love of freedom inspires and guides them.

"I know that I speak for the people of the United States when I say that we hope for you today a continuance of the strength, fortitude, and vision which have enabled you to serve your people in their greatest trial and which will enable you in the future to play your part in bringing liberty and abundance to your people."

Commercial Policy

MEXICAN EXPORTATION OF SILVER TO THE UNITED STATES

The Department of State and the Office of Price Administration announced on August 23 that on the basis of discussions which have been

conducted with the Mexican Government the Governments of Mexico and the United States have agreed in principle to an increase in the price at which silver may be imported into the United States from 35 $\frac{3}{8}$ ¢ an ounce to 45¢ an ounce, f.o.b. New York or San Francisco, to be effective August 31. Details are still to be worked out.

An amendment to the maximum price regulation (no. 198) on imports of silver bullion will shortly be issued, changing the maximum price at which silver bullion may be imported from any country into the United States from 35 $\frac{3}{8}$ ¢ an ounce to 45¢ an ounce.

Mexico is the largest exporter of silver to the United States. Lesser amounts also come in from Canada, Peru, and Chile.

The Near East

NOMINATION OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

[Released to the press August 19]

On August 15 the Secretary of State addressed the following message to His Excellency Numan Menemencioglu on the occasion of his nomination as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic:

"I send you, Mr. Minister, my warmest congratulations upon your appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and felicitate the Turkish Government upon its good fortune in having so worthy a successor to your esteemed predecessor."

A translation of the reply which has been received from Mr. Menemencioglu follows:

"The cordial and friendly message which Your Excellency was kind enough to address to me on the occasion of my nomination to the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs has touched me

deeply. I beg you to accept my warmest thanks and to be assured of my most friendly sentiments."

International Conferences, Commissions, Etc.

ELEVENTH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

The Eleventh Pan American Sanitary Conference will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 7-18, 1942. Invitations have been issued to all the American republics to be represented. National leaders in the field of public health and sanitation are expected to be present.

The Conference assumes unusual significance at the present time because of the need for maintaining the health of the civilian population in this period of crisis and for considering health problems which might have a bearing on military operations. One of the subjects which will receive most careful study will be the maintenance of an adequate supply of drugs and medical and hospital supplies. Other matters relating to public health will also be reviewed, especially cooperation in problems of hemispheric scope in order to secure uniformity of action and avoid duplication of effort.

The Department

REPRESENTATION ON FISHERIES COM- MITTEE OF THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

On August 15, 1942 the Department of State issued a notice regarding the establishment within the War Production Board of a Fisheries

Committee consisting of representatives of Federal agencies having functions to perform with respect to production of fishery products, particularly as a source of food supply. Mr. Leo D. Sturgeon, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Breckinridge Long, has been designated to serve as the Department's representative on the Committee and as liaison officer of the Department with the Office of Fishery Coordination of the Department of the Interior. Mr. Charles I. Bevans, of the Treaty Division of the Department of State, will serve as alternate liaison officer with the Office of Fishery Coordination.

The Foreign Service

ESTABLISHMENT OF CLAIM BOARD

On August 20, 1942 the Secretary of State issued Departmental Order 1082, establishing a Claim Board, the members of which include the Assistant Secretary of State designated as Budget Officer, the Legal Adviser, and the Chief of the Division of Foreign Service Administration, "in order to facilitate the preparation of claims for personal losses of officers and employees of the Foreign Service for such legislative action as may be desirable as soon as possible after such claims arise".

Publications

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Index to the Department of State Bulletin, vol. VI, nos. 132-157, January 3 - June 27, 1942. Publication 1781. 27 pp.

Treaty Information

STRATEGIC MATERIALS

Rubber Agreement With British Honduras

An announcement concerning the signing of a rubber agreement with British Honduras appears in this *Bulletin* under the heading "The War".

ARMED FORCES

Agreement With Canada Regarding Transfer of United States Citizens From Canadian to United States Armed Forces

The texts of notes exchanged between the Secretary of State and Canadian officials with regard to action taken by the Joint Canadian-American Military Board under the provisions of the agreement with Canada regarding the

transfer of United States citizens from Canadian to United States armed forces, signed March 18 and 20, 1942 (Executive Agreement Series 245), appear in this *Bulletin* under the heading "The War".

Legislation

Censorship Between Territories and the United States. H. Rept. 2397, 77th Cong., on H. R. 7151. 3 pp.

Refugee and Foreign War Relief Programs: Message From the President of the United States Transmitting Report to Congress on the Refugee and Foreign War Relief Programs for the Period Beginning July 1, 1940, and Ending April 30, 1942. H. Doc. 807, 77th Cong. viii, 61 pp.

An Act To facilitate the disposition of prizes captured by the United States during the present war, and for other purposes. Approved August 18, 1942. [H. R. 7211.] Public Law 704, 77th Cong. 2 pp.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.—Price, 10 cents - - - Subscription price, \$2.75 a year
 PUBLISHED WEEKLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

